

What is claimed is:

5 1. An image processing device comprising:
extraction means for extracting a document
block containing a specific image from among image data
to be processed;
recognition means for recognizing character
code from a character image within the document block;
reconstruction means for reconstructing the
document block in a specific shape; and
layout means for laying out character code data
corresponding to the character code recognized by the
recognition means within the reconstructed document block.

5 2. An image processing device as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the extraction means extracts a
plurality of document blocks, and the reconstruction
means arranges the plurality of extracted document blocks
into a single block reconstructed to a specific shape.

20 3. An image processing device as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the specific image includes a character
image of a headline and a character image of body text
corresponding to the headline.

4. An image processing device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising headline character arrangement means for arranging character code data corresponding to the character image of the headline at a specific position within the reconstructed document block.

5. An image processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reconstruction means adjusts a vertical or horizontal dimension of the document block to a length approximating a natural integer multiple of a length of one column of multiple columns formed within the document block.

6. An image processing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising file generation means for generating an electronic file storing the character code data laid out by the layout means.

7. An image processing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the character code data laid out by the layout means on a recording substrate.

8. An image processing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a reader for optically

reading an image of a document to obtain the image data to be processed.

5 9. A program for causing a computer to execute image processing comprising the steps of:

extracting a document block containing a specific image from among image data to be processed;

recognizing character code from a character image within the document block;

reconstructing the document block in a specific shape; and

laying out character code data corresponding to the recognized character code within the reconstructed document block.

10. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein a plurality of document blocks are extracted at the step of extracting, and the plurality of extracted document blocks are arranged into a single block reconstructed to a specific shape at the step of reconstructing.

11. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein the specific image includes a character image of a headline and a character image of body text corresponding to the headline.

12. A program as claimed in claim 11, wherein
the image processing further comprises a step of
arranging character code data corresponding to the
character image of the headline at a specific position
within the reconstructed document block.

13. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein at
the step of reconstructing a vertical or horizontal
dimension of the document block is adjusted to a length
approximating a natural integer multiple of a length of
one column of multiple columns formed within the document
block.

14. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein
the image processing further comprises a step of
generating an electronic file storing the character code
data laid out at the step of laying out.

15. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein
the image processing further comprises a step of printing
on a recording substrate the character code data laid out
at the step of laying out.

16. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image processing further comprises a step of reading an image of a document to obtain the image data to be processed.

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17. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

extracting a document block containing a specific image from among image data to be processed;

recognizing character code from a character image within the document block;

reconstructing the document block in a specific shape; and

laying out character code data corresponding to the recognized character code within the reconstructed document block.

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